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FOR SHEER  
DELIGHT



# THE KABUL TIMES

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...the swiss quality watch of  
worldwide reputation

VOL. VIII, NO. 2

KABUL, SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 1969 (HAMAL 3, 1348 S.H.)

PRICE AF. 4

## PLANNING MINISTER PRESENTS BUDGET FOR DEVELOPMENT

KABUL, March 23, (Bakhtar).—Planning Minister Dr. Abdul Samad Hamed yesterday presented the development budget for 1348 (March 21, 1969 to March 20, 1970) to Senator Abdul Hadi Dawl, president of the Meshrano Jirgah (Senate).

President of the Parliamentary Affairs Section in the Prime Minister's office, Mohammad Yasin Nasimi, accompanied the planning minister on his visit to the Meshrano Jirgah.

Finance Minister Mohammad

Anwar Ziayee attended the house's Committee on Budgetary and Financial Affairs and answered the senators questions on the budget for the current year.

Public Works Minister Mohammad Hussein Masa, who is also acting for the minister of mines and industries attended the meeting of the Senator's Committee on Foreign Affairs which was discussing equal pay for equal works and lack of discrimination in employment.

The committee was deliberating Afghanistan's joining international conventions governing these aspects of labour.

In the Wolesi Jirgah the Committee on Budgetary and Financial Affairs discussed two British loans for construction of a carpentry workshops in Baghlan and for the Helmand Edible Oil factory. It was decided that mines and industries minister should be invited to testify on the matter to the committee.

The committee also after a brief discussion of a 720 million yen Japanese loan for drinking water projects decided to invite Planning Minister Dr. Hamed to testify on the matter.

The committee also rounded up its debate on an Af. 16 million tax on the Afghan Textile Company and submitted its view on the matter to the house's secretariat.

The committee on Legal and Legislative Affairs continued its debate on the draft law on subpoena. The committee on communications and public works discussed the outstanding loans of the Mortgage and Construction Bank.

The committees on Pashtoonistan and Mines and Industries held their first meeting of this session yesterday.

## Viet Cong warn U.S. not to start bombing

HONG KONG, March 23, (Reuters).—The National Liberation Front, political arm of the Viet Cong, has warned the United States not to resume bombing North Vietnam.

Dr. Phung Van Cung, vice president of the NLF central committee, during a recent visit to Hanoi said: "If the U.S. imperialists harm the north once, the South Vietnam armed forces and people will return blows five or ten times harder."

The North Vietnamese news agency which relayed this yesterday said Dr. Phung made the statement at a banquet at the conclusion of his visit to Hanoi. It did not say when the banquet was held.

Commenting on Washington's warning of "an appropriate response" and the threat that U.S. planes might resume bombing North Vietnam if the Viet Cong continue their attacks in the South, Dr. Phung said "nothing can intimidate our people".

He added that as long as the U.S. continued to "commit aggression" in South Vietnam, the Viet Cong would deal them punishing blows.

In reply Hoang Quoc Viet, a member of the North Vietnamese Communist Party's Central Committee, said the U.S. were intensifying the war in South Vietnam in the hope of negotiating from a position of strength in the Paris peace talks, "thus bringing the Paris conference to a stand still."

He said to fight against U.S. aggression was the right of the Vietnamese people just as it was the right of the American people to fight against the British in the past to gain their independence.

## U.S. says Anguilla is no longer colonial isle

UNITED NATIONS, March 23, (DPA).—The United Nations Decolonisation Committee yesterday voted to send a group of UN observers to Anguilla to examine the situation on the island in the light of the British occupation.

A motion to this effect also called on Britain to give the UN men every assistance.

It was adopted unopposed with Britain absent from the whole of the preceding debate and the United States not voting.

Washington's spokesman said that the United States no longer regarded the island group as a colonial territory, but as a body with a large measure of internal self-government.

But the motion received the full support of the Soviet Union and nearly all the members of the 24 nation body.

The Moscow spokesman in the committee said that the Anguillan action clearly showed that status of so-called associated states was nothing but a smokescreen on the part of Britain for what was in fact nothing but colonialism.

Several African speakers accused Britain of being all too ready to invade the small Caribbean island, but not ready to undertake a similar action against the rebel regime in Rhodesia.

The UN observers had been asked for by Jeremiah Gumbs, the envoy here of self-styled Anguillan President Ronald Webster

## Turkish premier defends nation's ties with U.S.

ANKARA, March 23, (DPA).—Turkey's Premier Suleiman Demirel yesterday defended his country's independence, its membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and its links with the United States.

"There is nothing that stipulates that friendship with a major power is a disadvantage for a smaller power", the premier told an international press conference.

He was replying to public criticism that bilateral treaties with the U.S. gave Washington unusual privileges and violated Turkish sovereignty.

"Turkish-American friendship is of great value for both countries". There was absolutely no enmity between Washington and Ankara and Demirel envisaging a solid continuation of the friendship to the benefit of both partners.

The premier stressed that Turkey had joined NATO voluntarily and remained in the alliance at its own wish.

American installations in Turkey were part of collective defence measures and in no way endangered Turkish independence.

Turkey's independence is beyond discussion", said Demirel in reference to student demonstrators who have campaigned for an "independent Turkey".

Demirel said that the growing presence of Soviet warships in the Mediterranean was a matter not only for Turkey, but for many other countries including its NATO partners.

The premier announced that general elections would take place on October 12.

## VITAMIN DEFICIENCY NOTED IN STUDENTS

KABUL, March 23, (Bakhtar).—A health survey of Kabul schools has revealed that a considerable number of students suffer from vitamin deficiency. Education Ministry Health Department President Dr. Nasrullah Yousufi, said his department plans to supply vitamins to those students who are poor.

## Nixon promises to keep his cool in case of sneak attack

WASHINGTON, March 23, (Reuters).—United States Defence Secretary Melvin Laird has said President Nixon might delay massive missile retaliation in the event of a sneak attack by the Soviet Union.

He told senators to be very careful in assuming the president would react immediately by ordering the launching of American missiles against Russian targets.

And he hinted at a command decision to launch anti-ballistic missiles against oncoming rockets, at least under certain circumstances, without an accompanying decision to fire offensive missiles against Russia.

He was replying to questions at a meeting of the Senate disarmament sub-committee called to hear arguments from the defence secretary in favour of deployment of a new anti-ballistic missile (ABM) system.

Democrat Senator Frank Church of Idaho said reliance on the ABM system might lead the Russians to conclude the U.S. was willing to absorb a first-strike attack without necessarily launching massive retaliation.

Laird said U.S. policy had always rested on the assumption that the country could survive a first-strike attack and still be able to deliver an

answering blow so devastating that no potential enemy would be foolish enough to attack in the first place.

"I would like to be able to protect our deterrent force with ABM's rather than unload all our missile silos", he said.

Democrat Senator Albert Gore of Tennessee said he was deeply concerned over who would push the button to operate an ABM system. "I don't want a computerised war", he said.

## Spain seeks UN supervision of E. Guinea evacuation

UNITED NATIONS, March 23, (Reuters).—Spain was asked urgently for UN observers to supervise the evacuation of all Spaniards wishing to leave Equatorial Guinea.

The request was revealed in a letter published here yesterday from Spanish Ambassador Jaime De Pinies to UN Secretary General U Thant.

The letter said that, in accordance with the wishes of Equatorial Guinea's President Francisco Macias, Spain would withdraw its forces forthwith from the West African territory.

But it added the withdrawal would not be made before all Spanish citizens wishing to leave had been allowed to do so.

Calling for the dispatch of UN observers the ambassador expressed the hope that "the presence of these officials may facilitate the smooth and orderly departure" of all Spaniards.

## UN rights commission condemns apartheid

GENEVA, March 23, (Reuters).—The UN commission on Human Rights yesterday ended a five-week session here during which it passed resolutions on apartheid in South Africa and Israel's occupation of Arab territories.

The resolution on apartheid passed by the 32-nation body condemned the "racist" government in South Africa for intensifying its policy of apartheid in Southwest Africa.

Namibia, as the UN calls Southwest Africa, was a "territory under UN administration and illegally occupied by the government of South Africa".

## 140 lynched in East Pakistan; govt. may impose martial law

KARACHI, March 23, (Reuters).—More than 140 people have been killed in a reign of terror in East Pakistan so far this month, raising the prospect that the government may soon call in the army to restore order.

People have been crucified, beheaded and clubbed to death in a wave of killings in the countryside around Manikganj and Jamalpur, north of Dacca.

Semi-official accounts from the East Pakistan countryside said "corrupt elements" and wrongdoers were being executed.

But observers here believe villagers have turned on supporters of President Mohammad Ayub Khan's Moslem League as the field marshal's decade of strong hand rule crumbles into lawlessness.

## Kabul airport to do customs clearance

KABUL, March 23, (Bakhtar).—Customs clearance for air cargo and for accompanied baggage can now take place in Kabul International Airport. Previously taxable cargo and baggage could only be cleared in Kabul Customs House.

The change was proposed by the Finance Ministry Customs Department to facilitate customs clearance for traders and travellers. It is now in effect following approval by the cabinet.

There will also be space available in Kabul airport warehouses for transit goods passing through Afghanistan, a Finance Ministry announcement said yesterday.

## Fire destroys seismology ship in Australia

MELBOURNE, March 23, (Reuters).—Fire and a series of explosions last night swept through a seismological ship at Port Welshpool, 120 miles 190 km southeast of here, killing at least one man and critically injuring several others.

One report said six men were still unaccounted for.

Police cut the blazing 36 metre western spruce free from the pier when the fire raged out of control towards a quantity of explosives.

The ship cleared a sand bank and drifted out to sea burning from stem to stern.

Informed sources said U. Thant was studying the request and was expected to give an early reply.

Relations between the two countries have deteriorated following anti-Spanish riots in Rio Muni, the continental part of Equatorial Guinea, and an oblique coup against President Macias last month.

In his letter Ambassador De Pinies said President Macias had requested the departure of Spanish civil guards in a cable to Spanish Foreign Minister Fernando Castella earlier this week.

The troops are in the former Spanish colony—which became independent last October—under a transitional agreement.

The ambassador said the president had gone back on an agreement reached earlier this month with U Thant's representative in Equatorial Guinea, Ambassador Marcial Tamayo.

Saturday night President Ayub appointed a new governor of East Pakistan—Dr. M.N. Huda, a well-known economist.

The announcement came 24 hours after the swearing in of a Karachi industrialist-politician, Yusuf Haroon, as governor of West Pakistan—also seething with unrest.

Ayub yesterday, meanwhile, appealed for unity in strife-torn Pakistan—on the eve of the country's national day.

Defence Minister Afzal Rahman Khan told a press conference in Rawalpindi last night that "a monster of a third force" seemed to be at work in Pakistan, involving communists, non-communists, rightists and leftists.

Hoda was on his way to the East Pakistan capital, Dacca, yesterday with the massive task of trying to halt the lawlessness and terror.

He told reporters last night he would have two top priorities: restoring order and working out ways of avoiding a threatened shortage of food.

## Eban to visit London for more Mideast talks

LONDON, March 23, (Reuters).—Israel's Foreign Minister Abba Eban is due here by air from New York on Monday for talks the same day with British Foreign Secretary Michael Stewart informed sources said yesterday.

Eban has recently had talks on Middle East developments in Washington with President Nixon's administration and in New York with U Thant, United Nations Secretary General.

The Israeli foreign minister plans to leave London by air for Tel Aviv on Tuesday, the sources said.

## Scandal over Australian PM may hurt ties with U.S.

CANBERRA, March 23, (Reuters).—Australian Prime Minister John Gorton appeared last night to be weathering a political storm arising from allegations linking him with a 23-year-old singer and a 19-year old girl journalist.

There seemed little doubt that Gorton, a married man whose private life has been openly criticised by one of his own back-benchers as well as by the labour party opposition, would survive a possible parliamentary debate on whether he had misled the house of representatives.

The charge stems from criticism of the prime minister's conduct by government backbencher Edward St. John because of a late-night visit he made to the U.S. embassy here with 19-year-old Geraldine Willesee.

Miss Willesee yesterday denied she had ever been a bunny girl, following publication of photographs showing her in a bunny costume. She said she had put on the costume for an article she was writing on a bunny club.

In a statement to the house on Thursday Gorton, who is married to an American woman, said he visited the U.S. embassy with Miss Willesee just before midnight on November 1 and stayed there about 30 minutes. The embassy issued a statement confirming this.

But Miss Willesee said in a statement Friday they arrived at the embassy at 1 a.m. and stayed for two hours.

St John, who alleged that Gorton's conduct would prejudice Australia's relationship with the U.S. said Friday night that if Miss Willesee's statement was not satisfactory, contradicted "it would greatly weaken the confidence of the Australian

## Tehran, Beirut may break up diplomatic ties

BEIRUT, March 23, (DPA).—Iran and the Lebanon yesterday recalled their ambassadors for "consultations" amid growing speculation here that the two countries would break diplomatic relations with each other soon.

The crisis has arisen out of the Bachtiar affair, the former Iranian secret service chief who yesterday began the 12th day of a hunger strike in a Lebanese jail.

Bachtiar, who was arrested during what was have been a brief stop-over in the Lebanese capital, was held here for trying to smuggle weapons.

On Thursday the Tehran government gave the Lebanese authorities a 24 hour ultimatum to hand over the former security official who faces the death penalty at home for political offences.

The Lebanese government has to date failed to react to the ultimatum, although Tehran threatened with further measures unless Bachtiar was handed over.

The authorities here are concerned over Bachtiar's health, whose eleven days of fasting have left him too weak to be handed over to the Iranians.

But the former security head has refused to be moved to a hospital, saying that he intended to leave the jail either as a dead or as a free man.

When arrested Bachtiar who lived in exile pleaded that the weapon in question was a gift for a friend.

He was jailed but after serving the term for weapons "smuggling" was kept in prison pending a Lebanese decision on whether to hand him over to Iran.

KABUL, March 23, (Bakhtar).—Education Minister Dr. Mohammad Akram and FRG ambassador Gerhard Moltmann yesterday met to discuss the expansion of the Afghan-FRG cultural relations.

people in their prime minister". St. John's criticism followed a statement earlier by a labour backbencher about an alleged article by singer Liza Minnelli, Judy Gacband's daughter, concerning her experiences with leading Australian political figures.

## World Communist conference may take place in May

MOSCOW, March 23, (Reuters).—Delegates of 67 communist nations last night ended a meeting here to prepare for a world communist conference, originally scheduled to be held here some time in May communist sources said.

A communique on the preparatory meeting, which began here on Wednesday, and a possible date for the May conference, was expected later yesterday, the sources said.

The May meeting, when it takes place, will be the first world communist gathering in nine years. The Soviet Union has been pressing for a new world summit to redefine the aims and enemies of world communiques in the light of developments since the 1960 conference here.

The main document of the forthcoming conference, on communist unity in the struggle against imperialism, was reported to have been drafted by a working group that met here immediately prior to the opening of the preparatory conference.

## Home briefs

KABUL, March 23, (Bakhtar).—Mohammad Ismail Karim, director of the Engineering Department in the Town and Housing Authority of Public Works Ministry returned to Kabul yesterday. He attended a conference on construction and building designing in Goldatov, Czechoslovakia.

KABUL, March 23, (Bakhtar).—A military Academy student was fatally wounded yesterday in a traffic accident in Pashtoonistan square here. He was Abdul Kader, a resident of Karabagh, Ghazni. He fell down and went under the tire as he was climbing a bus going to Pule Charkhi.





## THE KABUL TIMES

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### The Prime Minister's speech

Prime Minister Noor Ahmad Etemadi's speech on New Year's eve was a resume of the progress Afghanistan has made during the past year, a honest appraisal of the weaknesses in his administration and an expression of hope for further achievements during the current Afghan year.

Considering our financial and technical limitations, progress during the past year has been unparalleled in the history of this country. It is high time that cynics and pessimists should look objectively at what has been done in the past 12 months. Then they will clearly see that this claim is not unrealistic.

Both the public and private sectors have moved forward with great strides. State investment in the projects in the public sector was 15 per cent higher than the year before. Investment in the private sector, was unprecedented. Never before in the history of Afghanistan were 52 companies formed, with a total of more than Af. 2.2 billion afghanis in one year. And, never before, have 25 companies in the private sector started operation in so short a time.

The state has been able to pay all the dues to the Central Bank. The foreign exchange position, due to greater and higher earnings in foreign trade and export of gas has been very stable. This has resulted in the comparative stability in the prices of essential commodities. Wheat and leguminous have not only been available in abundance, but also have been much cheaper than last year. In other words, almost all trends towards inflation have been curtailed at the outset.

### Food For Thought

Science carries us into zones of speculation, where there is no habitable life for the mind of man.

Robert Louis Stevenson

In the meantime, Afghanistan has received considerable aid from the friendly countries to complete a number of projects in the Third Five Year Development Plan. As the prime minister pointed out a number of new projects will be aided by the Soviet Union, Denmark, Bulgaria, the United States and Yugoslavia.

What has been achieved is closely related to with what will be achieved in the year we have just begun. While we have been able, and hope to be able, to consolidate our economic structure, the foundations of a democratic way of life are also being strengthened. The free press is gradually passing through its phase of trial and error and is slowly but surely maturing. Freedom of speech will have its impact upon the general elections for the next parliament this year.

As the Prime Minister has hinted, the government will be impartial, and honest in handling the general elections. This should satisfy all the sections of opinion in the country. We greatly admire the Prime Minister for his honesty and moral courage to admit that there is still corruption in the administration. The problem of corruption is a problem of human nature, and unless, as he pointed out, everyone of us helps to eradicate it, there is no way to wipe it out. That is one of the national achievements we should work for in the new year.

### Pakistan's dilemma

Many learned gentlemen have written in these columns on the pressing constitutional issues facing our country today. Nearly everyone has dwelled upon the causes of the present crisis and attributed it principally to the weaknesses of the system itself. No system is fool-proof against the dishonesty of the people who run it.

The measure of a society's level of civilisation is its capacity to organise itself in such a way as to make it difficult for dishonest elements to flourish, encourage the flow of ideas, tide over the moments of crises, and facilitate the involvement of almost all its citizens in the affairs of their country.

It is clear that very little of this can be attributed to the present system. It completely bypassed the people and their elected institutions. All lines of power took a vertical course and there was no horizontal check in the exercise of power. The executive assumed all the power, whereas the legislature failed to create effective checks.

The pyramidal structure with the President at the top, was based upon the 80,000 B.D.s who could be influenced easily through the local administration. Since the administration at the District level wielded enormous power, the role in running the elections became a vital one.

As a result of all these factors (and more), the regime has been alienated from the people, with a very few points of contact between the people and itself.

Coupled with this has been a denial of fundamental rights, curbs on the press and large-scale repression. Dissent with the policies of the regime came to be regarded as disloyalty to the state. In such a poisonous atmosphere no wonder we are worse off than we were in 1947.

But the people of Pakistan have once again showed their mettle and forced the administration to give to them what is rightfully theirs. Fundamental Rights have been restored, political prisoners and student leaders have been released, the state of emergency has been lifted, and the president has taken a wise decision not

### What form of government?

to stand for the next election. Everyone feels considerable relief at this. But this sense of relief is tempered with anxiety over the talks in Rawalpindi which will decide the future of the country. Whatever the system evolved there, the people are going to demand a more active participation in it.

Political observers believe that at the most vital issue at the Round Table Conference is going to be the choice of the system, i.e. between the presidential and parliamentary forms of government. In this context it is my contention that the parliamentary form of government is not only less democratic, but also unworkable in Pakistan.

It is less democratic in the sense that the people are bypassed in the political process. We are interested here in analysing the actual working of the parliamentary system rather than in discussing its concepts. Concepts like "supremacy of the parliament" are being mentioned without a proper understanding of their implications.

It is often not understood that the term "supremacy of the parliament" means in effect supremacy of the ruling party, as a manifestation of the "supremacy of the people." This concept of the supremacy of the parliament is wedded to "the supremacy of the people" by the concept of "responsible government," i.e. the government is "responsible" to the parliament and therefore the people.

But once the people elect a party into power, they have little say in the affairs of the country. More often than not expediency prevails over principle. Party discipline is so rigid that the prime minister and his ministers though collectively responsible to the parliament, manage to make their parliamentary party toe their line. The prime minister of England enjoys far greater power than the U.S. president, if he has a clear majority in the House of Commons.

President Kennedy was unable to get his Civil Rights Bill through the Congress, whereas Prime Minister Harold Wilson managed to bully his parliamentary

party to support the American bombing of North Vietnam. And this happened despite the fact that a majority of the Americans supported the Civil Rights Bill, and a majority of the Labour vote in Britain did not support American bombing.

Secondly, the apparent success of the British system largely rests on the peculiar development of its political parties. At any given time in the last 170 years or so, there have never been more than three major parties in the parliament. This is so because there are never more than three major issues at stake, rather all issues have been divided among the existing parties.

In the early and mid-nineteenth century Conservatives under the label of Tories and Liberals as Whigs tested each other's strength. Protection versus free trade and Imperialism versus Little Englandism were the main issues in these duels. In the late nineteenth century the second industrial revolution created surplus capital and labour. This manifested itself in the rise of the Labour Party on the one hand, and imperialism on the other.

The labour movement inspired by the Fabians, found the Liberal Party inadequate to meet its needs. Similarly the Imperial creed of the restless Joseph Chamberlain was welcomed with open arms by Disraeli's Conservatism. This saw the end of Liberalism and the bowing out of Gladstone. Thenceforth, non-conformist liberalism of the Oxford School was no longer a force to reckon with. After a confused period between the two world wars, Conservatism and Fabian Socialism emerged as the main creeds in British politics.

It is therefore clear that the British political system works well only when the issues are few and clearly defined. The French, for instance, were not able to work the parliamentary system. This is not a value judgment on the French people for they have a far greater sense of freedom and democracy than the British. But there are dozens of political parties in France and by virtue of this, the parliamentary form of

(Continued on page 4)

### HOME PRESS AT A GLANCE

The premier dailies have devoted their editorials commenting on the speech of Prime Minister Noor Ahmad Etemadi delivered last Friday night on Radio Afghanistan on the occasion of the new Afghan year, 1348.

Today's *Iskhan* says that Prime Minister in his new year speech clearly stated his government's policy on internal and international matters and once more urged the people to carry out their obligations and responsibilities in accordance with the values enshrined in the Constitution. He also urged people to join efforts for the progress of the country.

Prime Minister Etemadi also touched on the question of government's neutrality and the forthcoming general election for parliament, says the paper.

The slogan of the Etemadi government policy, as it was clearly stated in his policy statement, is neutrality in order to avoid misinterpretation of his policy. The Prime Minister since enough light on his government's policy points out the paper.

The government, the paper went on, in accordance with its pledge it has made has not allowed the members of his cabinet to enter political grouping and the government has been sincere in its promise that it would give priority to issues and matters which are in the interest of the whole mass of the people of Afghanistan.

On the issue of the general election, says the paper, the Prime Minister has also shed adequate light and has committed his government to watch the process of election with utmost sincerity so that elections will take place on the basis of the law pertaining to the elections and principles embodied in the Constitution, asserts the paper.

On the occasion of the new year, *Amis* came out in 22 pages. The paper has given a calendar of the domestic and international events of 1347. The review of the year 1347 is illustrated with some pictures of important events.

In one picture His Majesty the King is shown inspecting the President of Turkey, Levdet Sunay who paid a state visit to Afghanistan last May.

Another picture shows Prime Minister Etemadi inaugurating one of the irrigation projects in southern Afghanistan. In another photo Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Yul-tan opens the natural gas export project from which in ten years time

Afghanistan is supposed to export more than 5,000 million cubic metres of natural gas to the Soviet Union.

The paper has also published many advertisements by local and foreign firms.

### World Press

The independent Beirut newspaper *Al-Jarida* reported that Syria Defence Minister General Hafez has agreed to put two air bases in Syria at the disposal of Iraq.

The newspaper said that from now on Iraqi aircraft would take part in operations over Syrian territory.

The newspaper *Al-Bayraq*, quoting informed Damascus sources, reported that it was being denied in Damascus that Gen. Assad and Gen. Hafez Assad, assistant secretary-general of the Baath Party, had disagreed about Iraqi troops entering Syria to strengthen the eastern Arab front against Israel.

The newspaper added that the two generals were in the closest agreement about the need to keep a close watch on the activities of communists in Syria, whether they were pro-Moscow or Pro-Peking.

*Al-Bayraq* also reported that Syrian head of state Nureddin al-Atassi had agreed to remain in office pending decisions to be made by the Baath Party congress.

The Italian Communist Party Wednesday stuck to its claims of a rightwing coup d'etat plot despite an angry government denial.

High-ranking communist party official Granzio Pagetta said the government's denial was too vague.

In an article in the party newspaper *Unita* he said the government had not explicitly denied communist reports of unusual troop movements, telephone-tapping and stepped up police surveillance of leftwingers.

The government must be more explicit, Pagetta said.

*Unita* pointed to the danger of a Greek-style military coup in a series of articles that began last Sunday. It compared the present climate to that of July 1964 when rightwing generals and the counter-espionage service were alleged to have plotted a coup.

The *Unita* claimed that rightwing forces inside and outside the centrist coalition government were planning to set up a "government of technicians" backed by generals and industrialists like Giovanni Agnelli, president of the giant motor firm Fiat.

The office of prime minister Mar-

iano Rumor issued a statement condemning "the attempt to cast a shadow on the absolute and unquestioned rectitude of the highest state authority."

*Aviation danyd* leading aviation newsletter published in Washington, said Friday it had reliably learned that the Russian supersonic jet *tray* was badly damaged during a recent landing accident.

It said the accident would delay the supersonic transport programme of the Soviet Union by several months at least. But it gave no details of the accident or when or where it was supposed to have occurred.

U.S. aviation officials said they had also heard a rumour of an accident, but had no information to confirm the report. They said the rumour was several weeks old, but this was the first time it had appeared in print.

Tunisia, Bulgaria and India have signed a triangular trade agreement, the socialist party newspaper *Action* reported in Tunis yesterday.

Under the agreement, Tunisia will export super phosphates worth \$4,522,000 to Bulgaria, which will in turn export nitrate fertilisers worth a similar amount to India.

Funds created by the exchange will allow Tunisia to import traditional goods from India.

The three countries will have an opportunity to sign a bigger agreement next year, according to *Action*.

Warsaw Pact member states will be permitted a bigger say in the alliance's command structure following new proposals approved this week. Czechoslovak communist party leader Alexander Dubcek said in an interview published last week.

Last Monday's one-day summit meeting of the Warsaw Pact states in Budapest approved a document setting up a committee of the defence ministers of the seven member states, the Czechoslovak leader said in an interview with the editor of the communist party newspaper *Rude Pravo*.

Another document signed in Budapest constituted a statute on the combined armed forces and the combined command.

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### Anguilla goes it alone

### Declaration of independence by 6,000 islanders

The little breakaway West Indian island of Anguilla has voted overwhelmingly in favour of the "declaration of independence" recently made by its leader, Ronald Webster, in a letter to the British Government.

In this letter he suggested talks to work out some form of associated status, but Britain refused to recognise any legitimacy in his declaration and now a proposed new republican constitution for the 35-square mile island and its 6,000 inhabitants will sever its links not only with its former partners, St. Kitts and Nevis, but with Britain also.

Though Britain withdrew its resident representative and stopped all aid when Webster declined to renew a provisional agreement with Britain, the British Government still holds itself responsible for Anguilla's defence and external relations.

When Anguillians were voting on February 6, Commonwealth Caribbean leaders assembled in Trinidad were drafting a resolution asking Britain to guarantee the territorial integrity of the Associated State of St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, but the Anguillan vote (with only four dissenters) will no doubt have changed their and Britain's attitude.

The Associated State, as set up, has a total area of 136 square miles and a population of some 60,000, it belongs to the Leeward Islands, and St. Christopher (usually called St. Kitts) is the largest and was the centre of government for all three islands. It was known as the Mother Colony, but Anguillians, in their island 70 miles away, came to regard it more as a stepmother.

They accused its government, headed by the flamboyant Premier Robert Bradshaw, of spending all the revenue for its own island and neglecting Anguilla's development. Certainly the little island lacks electricity, telephones, proper roads and other basic services.

Trouble first threatened at the beginning of 1967 when the new Statehood Constitution was brought in by Bradshaw. On May 29 the island's police were forcibly ejected. Bradshaw declared a state of emergency and sought help from Britain and the other West Indian countries, but the former told him internal security was now his affair, while the West Indian governments, though reluctant to countenance revolt, were even more reluctant to commit themselves to armed intervention.

Without the means to mount an invasion by himself, Bradshaw could only fume and cry havoc. Meanwhile the Anguillians settled down to running their own affairs by a mixture of self-help and aid from Anguillians and sympathisers abroad. Fears that they might fall prey to gamblers recently frustrated in the Bahamas and looking for a tropical island to settle in, were dispelled by the islanders' refusal of suspect offers of aid. A local Council was formed to govern the island, and its leaders made no secret of their hopes of separate Associated Statehood with Britain.

Anguilla first declared its independence on July 12, 1967, but this was followed by a conference, attended by representatives of Britain, Jamaica, Trinidad, Barbados and Guyana, at which the Anguillan representative and Bradshaw came to some sort of agreement to end the secession on Anguilla's terms. It is likely that both Anguillians and Bradshaw's Bona fides

watched the proceedings in silence came over looking concerned. "You didn't buy one sir," he asked.

"Are they stolen?" "Oh, no, sir. They're made locally," he said, with a touch of pride. "They buy new faces, sir. Then they go around the pawnshops and buy old watches to put inside."

"You can buy for three to five dollars if you buy enough and then sell them sometimes for as much 50 or 60 dollars. They look very good."

The messenger says he has had his watch for 18 months and it has given no trouble except its a bit show. He sold a more expensive watch which was always at the watchmakers to buy it.

(Reuters)

### Watches

### Can you tell the real from the forged?

The watch bore a well-known trade name—all the presidents, professional golfers, airline pilots and what have you wear them, but surely not the office messenger on the salary he was paid. "It paid only 20 dollars," he said when asked how he could afford such an expensive timepiece.

"But it's not a real one sir, I bought it from a man on the street."

It looked good. It didn't feel so good about half the weight of the one in the shop of the respectable jeweller down the road.

A few days later when a man sidled up to this correspondent in a sleazy coffee shop, the latter became clearer.

"You like to buy good watch. Only 35 Malaysian dollars, very cheap, very good," he said.

It said on its modern, jazzy

By Colin Bickler  
front that it was "a datamatic" and had 23 jewels. Its back claimed to be waterproof, stainless steel, shock proof, everything in fact except "very good."

Asked whether the watch was stolen, the man answered "oh, no sir. Smuggled from Singapore."

"Five dollars," the correspondent offered. "No, sir. Tell you what you buy two or three, very cheap. Only dollar (two shillings and eight pence sterling) a jewel. It's made in America."

He produced a dozen from his pocket.

The watch looked impressive, even if the tick sounded a bit like an old steam engine. The bargaining stopped however, around 15 dollars and the man wandered off, having meanwhile decided the watch was "Swiss."

Classified per line, bold type Af. 20  
Display: Column inch, Af. 100

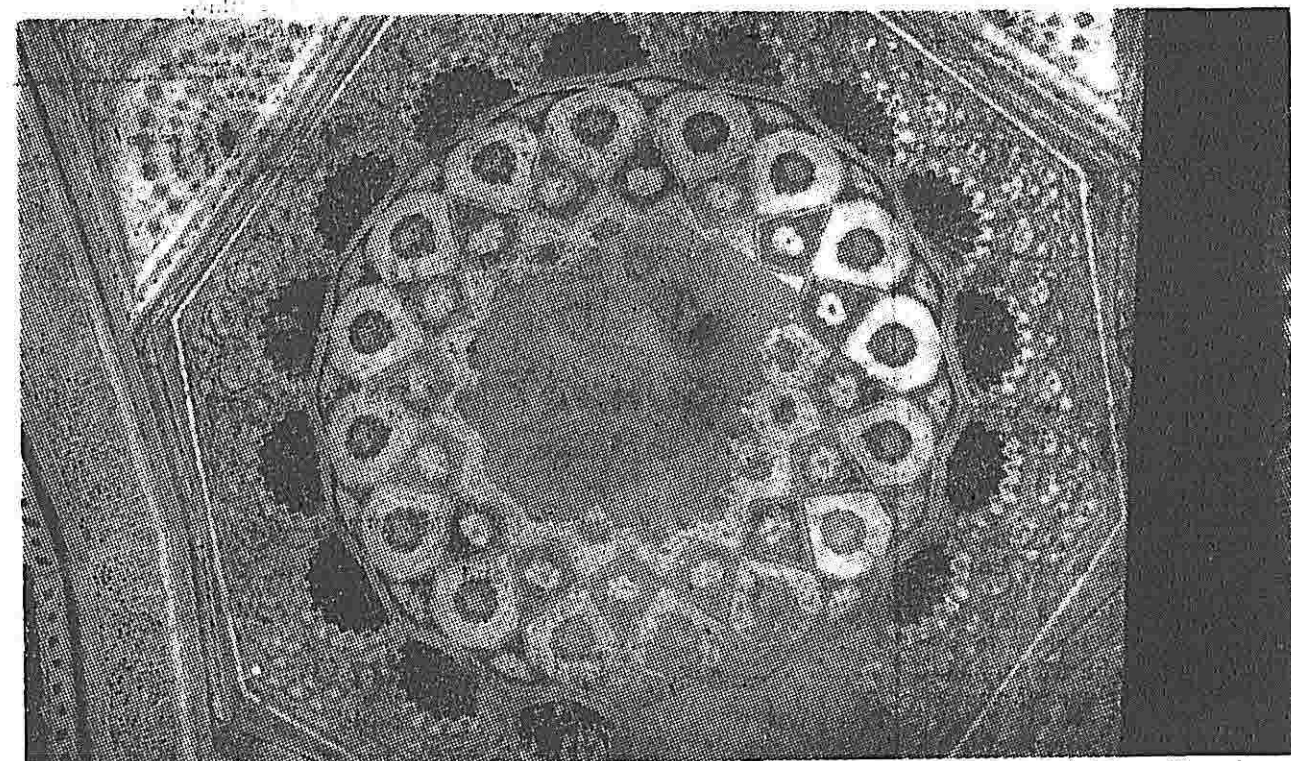
(Minimum seven lines per insertion)  
subscription rates

Yearly	Af. 1000
Half Yearly	Af. 600
Quarterly	Af. 300

#### FOREIGN

Yearly	\$ 40
Half Yearly	\$ 25
Quarterly	\$ 15





built still stands in Gazargah in Herat, restored from time to time. Ground lapis lazuli, turquoise and gold were used in decorating the ceiling. There is now a new tombstone on the grave of Nawai which says who Nawai was, when he was born, and when he died in readable prose rather than in form of a hard to understand poem and hard to decipher calligraphy.

## Yong Soviet pianist wins renown

Pianist Farhad Badalbeili's rise has been meteoric. He is only 20. However, he earned his fame in the sweat of his brow. He has behind him 11 years at the school of music, four years at the conservatoire under veteran Baku music maestros Arusyak Kalantar and Prof. Brenner, a year of gruelling preparations for the Lisbon contest, and, finally the four rounds of the contest itself.

At this world competition the younger generation of musicians from 22 countries was represented. Such celebrities as Siqueira Costa, Jean Favier, Nikita Magalov and Yakov Zak sat in judgment.

Farhad was not taken aback. He felt reverence rather than awe, because he has been taught to respect his elders from the cradle. That is why the first thought he had when he heard that with Victoria Postnikova of Moscow they had won the competition, was of his parents and teachers.

"I don't know why," he says, "but at that delightful moment I had thoughts of my parents, my uncle the composer Afrasyab Badalbeili, my teachers Arusyak Kalantar and Prof. Brenner, and famed Azerbaijani composers Niyazi, Kara Karayev and Fikret Amirov—all friends of the family who have largely influenced my taste and views. I felt happy that in some way I had lived up to their expectations."

It takes more than one day to make a musician, his is quite true of Farhad. He has been steeped in an artistic atmosphere from infancy. His grandfather Badalbek hailed from the Karabakh town of Shush, which was famous for its singers, played the violin and the tala, a national instrument and was cousin of the great Azerbaijani composer Uzeyir Gadzibekov. His uncle Afrasyab composed the first Azerbaijani ballet, "Maiden's Tower".

Finally his father Shamka is a musicologist and an expert in the history of Azerbaijani music. Welcome guests at home are the talented conductor Niyazi, those fine composers Kara Karayev, Fikret Amirov, and Suleiman Rustam and also many famous artists, actors and singers. Farhad early developed an interest in music. He was lucky in that neither parents, nor other relatives sought to take him for a child prodigy.

He was quite the ordinary post-war Baku boy with that common

craze for football—often accompanied by the tinkling of shattered neighbour's windows and truncheons from school. In his 8th year at school it was hard to say what he liked more, soccer or the piano. However, in his 9th year he put in hours at a stretch at the piano to amaze kith and kin.

Farhad had read in a book about Van Cliburn that the famous pianist was no "superman" but had won renown thanks to extreme industry. That was when the musical side prevailed, even though the craze for soccer is still very much alive. In Lisbon he used the breaks between the rounds to see Portuguese soccer and even brought home the Benfica club pennant.

The contest was very stiff. He realised he was ahead only after the 23rd round and was therefore able to play more freely in the fourth and final rounds. The composers varied—Mozart, Beethoven, Chopin, Ravel, Prokofiev—and so did the genres—sonatas, etudes and concertos with orchestra.

Farhad has no particularly favourite composer. "There is so much wonderful music," he says, "whether the symphonies of Brahms and the later sonatas of Beethoven, Chopin, Rachmaninoff, Scriabin and Mussorgsky, the Azerbaijani composers

Uzeyir Gadzibekov and Kara Karayev and finally Stravinsky's "Petroushka" and "Le Printemps Sacre".

Though Farhad is still very young he already has definite views about music generally and national music more specifically.

"Modern music must, of course, be national," he says, "but without must rest on world-wide achievement. I am fond of all kinds of all kinds of music including jazz as long as it's good. However, I don't respect avantgardist music because I think it has no future while its only aim is to make itself heard."

To traditional questions about the succession of generations, modern youth and the physicist-poet controversy he gives willing replies, taking such subjects quite seriously.

Thus, with some surprise he says: "Though I'm only 20, I find myself grumbling sometimes against the 17-year olds who appear to me inordinately mercantile and devoid of any serious interest or aim. I'm wary of young folk who have only one way football, which is all that they can think about in their life. For me even my beloved music is not enough. I'm interested in political economy, the cinema, the theatre, the stage directing manners of Tovstonogov and finally painting

## What is the pass word?

### You could say orange and get away even if it were lemon

By A.H. Waleh

More than two decades ago you to walk on the streets after the 11 p.m. curfew in the city of Kabul. On the face of it, this hindered the free movement of the citizens but actually they did not leave their homes that late anyway. However, the burglars or potential house-breakers did not dare to attempt any mischief.

The police used to stop the unsuspecting passersby hollering, "Halt! What is the password?" And the poor souls confronted with a strong man reinforced by a bayonet were not plussed. What could they say except, "Sorry officer, we didn't know it was this late."

But this was no excuse. The group had either to stay at the police station or find a telephone and take the matter higher up to effect their release. Very few of the Kabul citizens got themselves temporarily arrested this way but those who had just moved to the town from remote areas did because they didn't have a clue to what a password was. So they faced a few troubles from time to time but were released after proved innocent.

A man had just arrived in Kabul from Panjsher. After a large dinner, he tried to find a suitable place for nature's call when a group of police sentries stopped him. He was asked, in Pashto who he was. Because he did not know any Pashto either, he retorted "I don't understand what you say but I am going to answer nature's call in spite of it all."

Another man from Jalalabad was stopped by the police to tell the password which of course, changed every night. He didn't know what to say. Looking around in dismay, he noticed the oranges which hung from the overloaded branches of the trees around him and took a chance. He said the password for the night was "orange".

The police, smiling jokingly, said "Oh you son of a gun. You think you are too smart, don't you? You say orange just for fun while you know it is actually lemon."

After getting rid of the interrogators, the man was greatly relieved and told everybody coming his way what lemon meant that night. And so many people got away with it that eventful night.

The credit for getting the password system abolished goes to a smart journalist, Mohammad Osman Sidkey who was the editor of the daily "Anis" at the time. He was coming out from an embassy reception when stopped by a policeman to say the password. Because he didn't have a clue, he managed to convince the officer that he was not a burglar.

As soon as he reached home, he wrote an article about the incident and what a nuisance it was, upon which the Prime Minister issued an order to abolish the password immediately.

An Iranian poet, Abdul Kassem Hafat, who had suffered from the system as much as Sidkey did, has written a beautiful as well as humorous poem about the password which is presented in translation.

"What shall I say to the sentry in the middle of the street at midnight? What can a man of letters, like me say to an unlettered and impolite chap like him?"

"What would I do if he seriously molested me just because I am late in getting home?"

"What could I do if he holiered at me to march to the station, and I didn't and then he hit me in the back with the butt of his rifle?"

"As an Iranian, I would be regarded as his brother. But what would I do if he turns an Arab, lock, stock and barrel?"

"What would I do if the man in need me to his boss, out of spite, as a member of the communist party?"

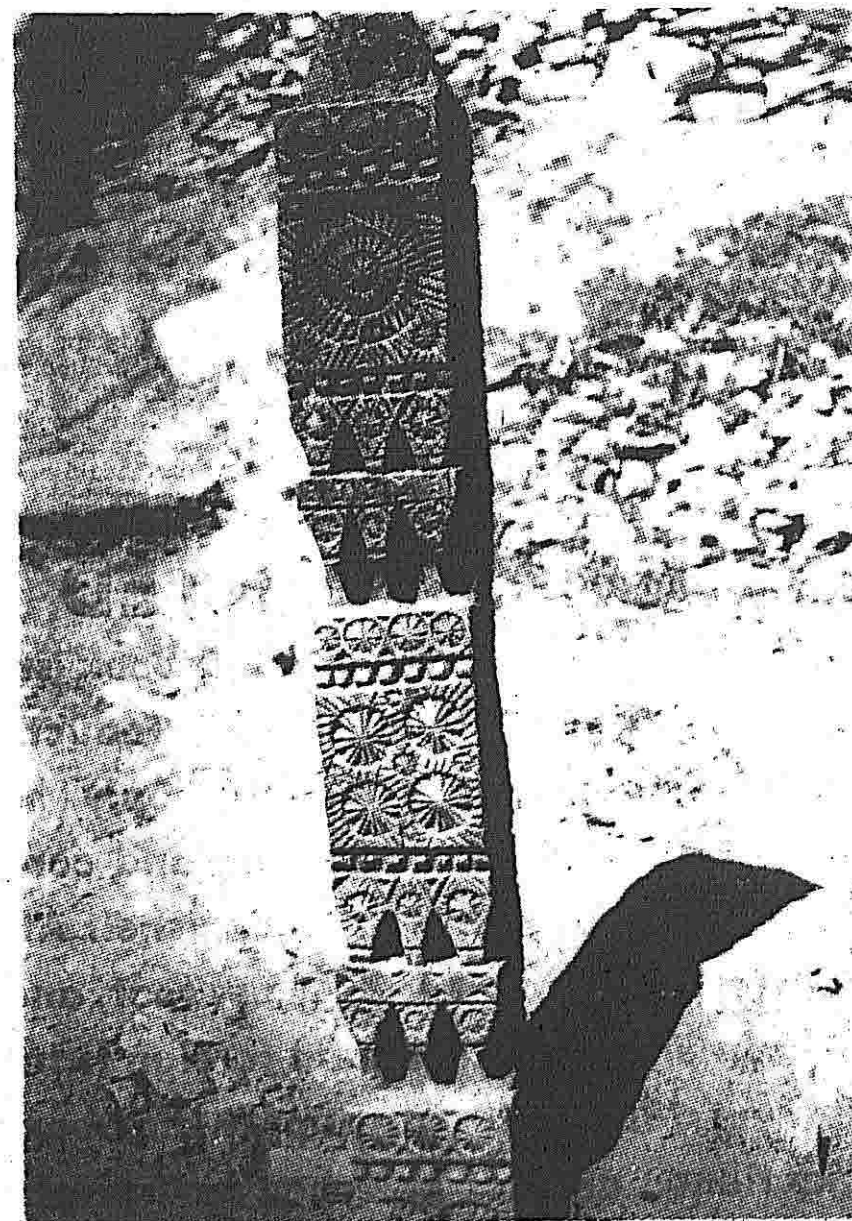
"What would I do if the man in charge glanced at me with suspicion, like a hangman eyes his victim?"

"What shall I say if he ask me where I was and what for? What could I say I was doing in that place of ill-repute?"

The above poem, partly translated, illustrates the point in question. The password system in Iran was enforced under a military government in extraordinary circumstances, also more than two decades ago.

However, I must dedicate myself to the piano and will always strive for perfection.

I'm planning to complete the conservatoire course extra-murally and subsequently take a postgraduate course in Moscow. I want to play a lot but first Rachmaninoff concerto. There is a lot that I've got to learn and understand to achieve as much as possible."



Here and there on the mountains of Nooristan stand carved wood monuments, the legacy of the pagan days of the area. Anthropologists are studying them to learn more about the faith of the forefathers of the present day Nooristanis.

## Humour as a means of getting things done

"Punch" is probably the most famous of all English magazines; and yet perhaps it is the title rather than the magazine itself which is famous. It has been going 127 years, and when people think of "Punch" they are not thinking of last week's copy, but of the old bound volumes for 1861 or 1861 or for some other year in the English golden age. The magazine is part of English history.

There is an old joke which sums up the magazine. It is in the form of a conversation between two gentlemen in a Pall Mall club—and the time was, not so long ago, when a good many jokes in "Punch" were between two gentlemen in a club. Anyway, it goes like this:

1st gentleman: "Punch isn't what it used to be."

2nd gentleman: "It never was." But now "Punch" has a new editor—William Davis. He is young—35. He is by no means the classical English gentleman: he was born in Germany and has earned his living as a daily journalist since he was 18. He hopes to restore to the magazine some of the radicalism of its beginnings.

The first issue of "Punch" was on July 17, 1841. At first it was to be called "The Funny Dog" and only at the last moment was the title changed to "Punch". The editorship was shared by Mark Lemon, a failed playwright, and Henry Mayhew, a journalist today best known for his book "London Labour and the London Poor", which consisted of interviews with the beggars, thieves, prostitutes, actors and vagrants of London.

Lemon announced that the magazine would be a refuge for minutes of peevish puns, but he also made a clear from the start that he intended not only to amuse but also to destroy the principle of evil by increasing the merits of cultivating the good. At Christmas 1845 he published Thomas Hood's poem, "The Song of the Shirt", which disclosed that seamstresses were working themselves to death for only five shillings a shirt.

For its first 20 years the magazine took a strong radical line. In 1854 Thackeray, the novelist, ceased to contribute regularly because he disapproved of the paper's constant abuse of Louis Napoleon of France and of Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's consort. In the American Civil War, "Punch" reviled both North and South, and did much to embitter Anglo-American relations. But later the tone mellowed. By the 1870s it was pretty solid middle class, and by the end of the century it was conservative through and through.

By the 1920s the magazine was distinguished for its witless jokes about domestic servants, and by the 1940s for its jolly jokes about castaways on desert islands. The sharpest of the modern editors was Malcolm Muggeridge (1953-58), a natural writer but now better known for his television appearances.

Soon after his appointment he unveiled a commemorative plaque to his predecessor Mayhew who was, said a stammerer, jovial, charming, and unimpaired. Mayhew's letters were mainly from duns, but he never opened them. His wife did, but perhaps, said Muggeridge, Mayhew had forgotten the value of such services when in 1845 he coined one of the most famous "Punch" jokes ever. "Advice to those about to marry—Don't."

Davis, whose first issue as editor appears on January 1, 1969, is quite unlike any of his predecessors. For one thing he is not a wit, though one may be an advantage for a man whose principal job is to control the wits on his staff.

He was born in Hanover and came to England when he was 13, to improve his English accent he learned a rhyme:

All that you do, do with all your might

Things done by halves are never done right

Davis has certainly done nothing by halves. He left school at 14, worked as a commercial artist, then in a stockbroker's office, and at the age of 19 got his first job in journalism as office boy on the "Stock Exchange Gazette" at a wage of 45s a week. For some years he worked as reporter and sub-editor for the "Financial Times", the most influential of English financial newspapers and then, when he was 25, he joined Lord Beaverbrook, owner of several right-wing newspapers.

They got on fine. When he was 26, Davis was twice asked by Beaverbrook to suggest a new city editor for the London "Evening Standard". The second time he suggested himself. He was given the job and made his reputation. Three years ago he became city editor of the liberal "Guardian". He also does a lot of radio work, a weekly television programme, and has just published a book. He is the most conspicuously successful journalist in London.

He has a French wife, a seven-teenth floor flat in London, a fifteenth floor flat overlooking the sea at Brighton, and a house in Sicily.

(Continued on page 4)

## The Kabul Times

The Afghan new year starts March 21.

The new year is a time for making resolutions, so if you haven't yet resolved to keep on top of the news at home (Afghanistan), and abroad, here is your chance. Simply subscribe to the Kabul Times.

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We're located between Ansari Wat and Kabul-Jalalabad highway opposite Public Health Inst.

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one year	Af. 1000
six months	Af. 600
three months	Af. 400

Subscription rates for outside Afghanistan.

yearly	\$ 40
six month	\$ 25
three month	\$ 15



## Airlines

MONDAY  
ARIANA AFGHAN AIRLINES

DEPARTURES	FLIGHT	TIME
Kabul-Amritsar	FG-304	1000
Kabul-Mazar	FG-115	1130
Kabul-Tashkent		
Moscow	FG-604	1130
Kabul-Kandahar	FG-104	1400
ARRIVALS		
London-Frankfurt		
Istanbul-Beirut	FG-702	0850
Tehran-Kabul		
Kandahar-Kabul	FG-401	1100
Mazar-Kabul	FG-116	1500
Amritsar-Kabul	FG-A05	1730
PIA:		
DEPARTURE		
Kabul-Peshawar	PK-607	1150
ARRIVAL		
Peshawar-Kabul	PK-606	1050
TMA		
ARRIVAL		
Beirut-Kabul	TL-203	1200

## Pharmacies

## OPEN TONIGHT

Quraishi-Silo Street  
Parwan-Karte Parwan  
Ali Ahmad-Sarai Ghazni  
Shahbazadah-Sarai Ahmad Shah  
Sooma-Dah Buri  
Kaybar-Karte Char  
Didar-Baghsan Kucha  
Ariana-Jade Maiwand  
Sanayee-Share Nau  
Husseini-Sher Pur  
Baray-Jade Andarabi  
Lugman-Jade Maiwand  
Abadi-Sayed Noor Mah. Shah  
Fariab sec-Jade Pashtoonistan  
Karte Char and Pashtoonistan  
General Medical Depot  
Telephones: 20528 and 41252.

## Important

## Telephones

Police Station —20  
Traffic Department —41700  
Airport —21283-20872  
Fire Department 13  
Telephone repair 29  
Main post office 24:41

## Weather

Skies over all the country are cloudy. Today Kunduz, Mazare Sharif, Fariab, Lal, Shahrak, Faizabad, North and South Salang has rain and snow. Yesterday the warmest area was Chalkansoor with a high of 35 C 95 F. The coldest area was North Salang with a low of -2 C, 28 F. Yesterday Shahrak had 3 mm rain, Farah 2 mm, Kunduz 5 mm, Fariab 4 mm. Tomorrow skies in the northern, northwestern, northeastern, southern and central regions will be cloudy with a chance of rain. Today's temperature in Kabul at 10:30 a.m. was 7 C, 44 F with cloudy skies. Today Kabul had 6 mm rain. Wind speed was recorded in Kabul at 5 to 8 knots.

## Yesterday's temperatures:

Kabul	19 C	2 C
Mazare Sharif	66 F	36 F
	24 C	8 C
	75 F	46 F
Herat	27 C	12 C
	80 F	53 F
Kunduz	16 C	10 C
	61 F	50 F
Ghazni	22 C	9 C
	72 F	48 F
Farah	28 C	15 C
	82 F	59 F
Jalalabad	27 C	12 C
	80 F	53 F
Bamian	16 C	3 C
	61 F	37 F
South Salang	6 C	-1 C
	43 F	30 F
Lal	9 C	1 C
	48 F	34 F
Shahrak	15 C	1 C
	59 F	34 F
Baghlan	21 C	9 C
	70 F	48 F



## ARIANA CINEMA:

At 2, 5, 7 1/2 and 9 1/2 p.m. American colour film dubbed in Farsi THE TAMING OF SHREW with Liz Taylor and Barton. Sunday at 7 1/2 p.m. in English.

## PARK CINEMA:

At 2, 5, 7 1/2 and 9 1/2 p.m. American and Italian colour film dubbed in Farsi ULYSSES with Kirk Douglas, Anthony Quinn and Rossana Podesta. Saturday at 7 1/2 p.m. in English.

## World news in brief

NEW DELHI, March 23, (Reuters).—An earthquake shock of moderate intensity with its epicentre near the Afghan-Soviet border and about 1,300 km from here was recorded at the Delhi meteorological office yesterday.

UNITED NATIONS, March 23, (AFP).—Secretary General U Thant said yesterday that a big four consultations on the Middle East will begin "at an early date."

He declined to answer when asked whether that meant they could begin next week.

There is speculation here that the consultations will not begin until after King Hussein's visit to Washington scheduled for the beginning of April.

NASHVILLE, Tennessee, March 23, (AFP).—James Earl Ray has stated that pressure was put on him to plead guilty to the murder of Martin Luther King, although he still claims he is innocent, his lawyer J.B. Stoner said yesterday.

Stoner revealed this after visiting his client. A defender of many Ku Klux Klan member and himself a known segregationist and anti-semitic, Stoner said on his way to Nashville that he would request a reopening of the trial.

MOSCOW, March 23, (AFP).—The Soviet Union yesterday morning launched a new Cosmos-type earth satellite, Tass reported.

Cosmos-873 is carrying equipment for space research. It circles the earth in 89.9 minutes at a maximal distance of 456 kms and a minimal distance of 205 kms.

SAIGON, March 23, (Reuters).—U.S. Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker left Saigon Saturday by special American air force jet for the United States for talks with President Nixon.

A smiling Bunker told newsmen, clustered round the aircraft as he was about to board it,

## Humour

(Continued from page 3)

Now he has "Punch" as well. Last September, when Davis was in Sicily, the chairman of "Punch" asked him if he would like the job and even offered to go to Sicily to talk things over. Davis said no need, returned to London himself, harangued the board for two hours—and next day accepted their offer.

He does not want a joke magazine and says he intends to jazz "Punch" up a bit. There will be a women's page to be called, naturally enough. Judy, he hopes to be able to persuade his women contributors to write about something other than the birth pill and abortion. He wants a more international magazine and will have at least two pages of foreign cartoons. He thinks everything in the newspapers these days is so miserable, so he is going to introduce some pleasure. He is getting one of his writers to hire a Rolls Royce for a few days, go down to Monte Carlo, live it up and then write about it.

He doesn't want to campaign against the war in Vietnam, preferring to leave that to others but he will campaign against the poor quality of after dinner speeches. He will have a speeches correspondent to review speeches as his drama critic reviews plays. He will write himself. During the recent crisis over the franc, he would have done, say, The Secret Diary of a Speculator: "7:30 a.m. Got up, felt litherish, decided to have a go at the franc."

He is thinking of organising an international exhibition of cartoons, and of holding a world conference of humorists in London.

How would he sum up his purpose as editor, as Lemon, the first editor, summed up his?

Davis says he hates official pomposity and wants to show up the absurdities of life. "I don't want to satirise for the sake of satire. I don't want to sneer. I don't want to mock, only to entertain. I want to make people laugh and think, and to use humour as a way of getting things done."

that his visit was for regular consultations with President Nixon and Secretary of State William Rogers.

KATMANDU, March 23, (Reuters).—Twenty-four people died in a fire in Nawa Lapras town, south-west Nepal, according to reports received here. About 120 houses have been destroyed in the fire, which broke out yesterday.

HANOI, March 23, (Tass).—Fighters of the anti-aircraft defence of the Vietnam people's army Saturday shot down a pilotless reconnaissance U.S. plane over Hanoi province, the Vietnam news agency. Another U.S. reconnaissance plane was shot down over Ngean province on March 19.

PRAGUE, March 23, (Reuters).—Four professors sentenced in 1959 to jail terms ranging from 18 months to 13 years have been legally rehabilitated and pardoned, it was reported here yesterday.

The daily newspaper Lidova Demokracie said the four men had been accused of compiling an encyclopedia in Slovakia which was allegedly anti-Marxist and amounting to sabotage.

BOSTON, March 23, (AP).—The first of three guided missile destroyers built in the United States for West Germany was commissioned Saturday in colour ceremonies at Boston naval shipyard.

## Developments in Pakistan

(Continued from page 2)

government proved a hopeless failure.

In Pakistan too the issue involved are perhaps as diverse as in France. We have the regional issue in terms of the One Unit question, the federal issue in terms of the Centre-Province relationship.

We then have conservatism, liberalism, and socialism. In each of these creeds we have further divisions. We have for instance the non-Peking, pro-Moscow, and the Islamic brands of socialism in the left. To make confusion sonalities leading each party in each creed. It would indeed be stretching our optimism too far if we hope for some sort of party crystallisation to take place soon.

By the very nature of our issues and problems, the multi-party structure of our national politics would necessitate the formation of coalition government under a parliamentary system.

On historical and empirical grounds, one can safely say that but for national emergencies, coalition governments are notoriously inefficient. This is so for the very simple reason that two or more points of view form a coalition and party principles are compromised for mutual accommodation.

For a developing country this can be particularly disastrous in that the dissolutions of the parliament become an obstacle to consistent national policies.

What is perhaps needed is the liberalisation of the present Constitution, by emphasising separation of powers, adult franchise, strong committees in the assemblies to act as watch-dogs over the administration, ratification powers for the assemblies coupled with fundamental rights, free press, a strong and independent election commission and representation in the assemblies on the basis of population. This last would automatically place East Pakistan in a stronger position. But that is how it should be according to the accepted canons of democracy.

Besides all these provisions, complete independence of the judiciary should be provided. The office of a vice president should also be created. The vice president and the president should never be from the same province.

## BIDDERS WANTED

Kabul University requires 270 book stacks. The Iranian Industrial Products office in Kabul has offered to supply the component shelves, angle iron and corners. The quotations are per shelf Af. 276; per angle iron Af. 28.10 per foot, and pre corner Af. 3. Local and foreign firms and individuals who can supply the above mentioned articles at cheaper prices should submit their offers and attend the bidding meeting in Kabul University on March 31.

## Afghan week in review:

## Etemadi gives account of past year

By A Staff Writer

The Prime Minister Noor Ahmad Etemadi delivered a major speech on the occasion of the new Afghan year on Friday. In it he expressed candidly that his government's attempts to curb corruption, eliminate red tape in government offices, and halt smuggling have not been as successful as it was hoped.

However, he said the commission set up to review administrative reforms will soon submit its report. Beside this note the Prime Minister enumerated a long list of what was achieved.

Foremost among these the Prime Minister said was that the government remained faithful to its pledge that it will stay out of any political grouping.

"Our action during the past year should be seen in the light of our obligation for building up and strengthening the democratic system which is called for in the constitution of 1964.

"Free expression and public participation in the affairs of the nation are the fundamentals of democracy and our conduct of the Executive office should be seen in this light by those exponents of all power government."

"We have been neutral as far as faction politics is involved. But we can not be neutral when the supreme interests of the nation, our sovereignty and the system is involved," he said.

On the economic front the Prime Minister said throughout the year the Afghani kept its parity, and the

foreign exchange earnings of the nation due to increased exports, setting up of consumer industries at home and improved processing of the exports goods was higher this year.

Expenditure in the public sector and investment by private sector was considerably more than the year before. Despite the fact that Afghanistan paid more last year in principles of foreign loans and in interests the economy was not adversely affected.

He also gave the news in his speech that the government is negotiating new loans with some friendly nations for agricultural and industrial projects among them Denmark and Bulgaria from which two countries Afghanistan has not borrowed yet.

Talking about the coming elections this year the Prime Minister noted that the government will do everything in its power for affairs to go smoothly and fairly, will in no way try to influence the outcome of it.

"We are completely aware of our responsibility not to commit mistakes during our term in office which will make the work of our successors difficult."

"Everything we do should be done only after complete and thorough planning and attention to all implications of our action. In the past certain deeds of the government presented us with dilemmas and we wish this will not be repeated," he added.

Last week the Executive also presented the budget for current year to the parliament. This year's budget of Af. 7,543,000,000 is over one billion afghanis more than the last

year's budget.

Yesterday the finance minister attended a committee meeting of the Meshrano Jirgah to answer senators questions on the budget. Detailed information on the budget, sources of revenues and a breakdown of expenditures have not been released yet by the Finance Ministry or the Meshrano Jirgah which is now studying it.

## Asian publishers urged to work together

SINGAPORE, March 23, (Reuters).—A Singapore publisher told a regional seminar on book publishing which opened here Friday that Asian countries could be self-sufficient in school books almost immediately if they worked together.

"It is surprising that in some countries no faith is shown in local books and foreign books are still in preference for mysterious reasons," NTU Chopra, president of the National Book Development Council of Singapore said. School text books for Asia should be written by local authors, have local content and be pointed in Asian he said.

But this situation would come about only when Asian governments realised that even in the smallest country, the book industry was a multimillion dollar industry which must be protected and given a place in overall economic planning.

## KADS/USIS PRESENT

## TWO SHORT OPERAS

## SUNDAY EXCURSION

a comedy by Alec Wilder

and

## THE MEDIUM

a tragedy by Gian-Carlo Menotti  
Wednesday, March 26, 8 p.m.  
Thursday, March 27 8 p.m.  
Friday, March 28, 8 p.m.

The American Centre in Share Nau.

Tickets Afs. 100.

Available at:  
American Centre Library, AST-CO, United Nations Commissary, German Commissary, American Commissary, and USAID. One-Stop Service.

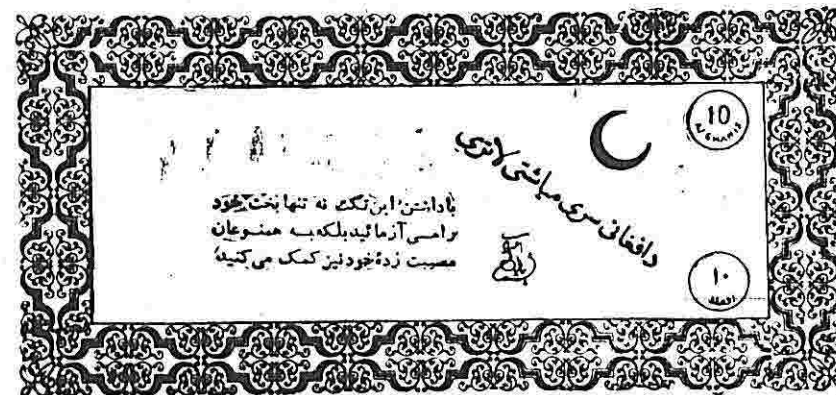
SPECIAL PERFORMANCE FOR  
AFGHAN STUDENTS

Monday, March 24, 8 p.m.  
The American Centre in Share Nau.

Tickets Afs. 5

A presentation of the Kabul Amateur Dramatic Society in cooperation with the United States Information Service.

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